

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, according to the industrial, legislative and judicial bodies. The only information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Gold glitter more where virtue shines no more—Young.

WHOLE NO. 923.

SPECIAL EDITION

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AUTOMATIC MACHINERY BRINGS SOCIAL UPSET

Washington, Dec. 15.—New methods in industry and transportation the past decade have wrought social changes undreamed of by unbridled imagination.

The world's history can not duplicate this social revolution. Every element in society has abandoned old concepts and outlooks.

The automatic machine, chemistry, engineering and mass production—all yet in their infancy—have already discounted wonders of the ancient world. Even the romanticist and castle builder is overwhelmed.

Nothing is impossible. Inventors are busily interested in labor-saving machinery—their objective is labor, whether machine or man. The machine that dispense with the hand and brain of man.

This displacement can not be reversed by placing workers in new industries, for the same mechanical revolution is operating with the new as well as the old.

The automatic machine also affects business men who are facing yet undeveloped chain-store competition. The machine's output is handled by these business men who are displacing the workers who are displaced by the machine.

Revolutionary changes are also noted in the attitude toward trade unions. The new policy is professional friendship, rather than open opposition. These include the "company union," the "yellow dog" contract, the labor injunction, the "company ownership," free (?) \$1,000 life insurance and other forms of paternalism that are intended to keep the worker's will and place him in a dependent attitude.

This means less militancy, less power to protest against wrong. With a control of the intellect through "education" that ignores the development of will power and the value of action, unorganized workers are dominated by the friction and strife of the union, but to turn this job over to injunction courts, while the unorganized are directed into activities that are foreign to the purpose of trade unionism—immediate and continuous betterment of these who work for wages.

LABOR'S RADIO STATION WANTS UNLIMITED TIME

Chicago, Dec. 15.—Organized labor in this city is compelling facts to present to the Federal Radio Commission to secure an exclusive, unlimited time and ample power for WFL, the only trade union radio station in the country. The station is owned and operated by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Business and corporate interests have unlimited time and power for their stations, which are maintained on commercial public air waves. The station kept off the air after 8 p. m. when most employed persons can use their listening sets.

The A. F. of L. Executive Council is alert to the importance of securing a desirable wave length to WFL. It is the only trade union radio station in the country. The station is owned and operated by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR



Top row, reading from left to right—First Vice President Frank Duffy, Secretary Frank Morrison, President William Green, Treasurer Martin F. Ryan, Second Vice President Thomas A. Rickert. Bottom row, reading from left to right—Third Vice President Jack Fischer, Fourth Vice President Matthew Wolf, Fifth Vice President James Wilson, Sixth Vice President James P. Noonan, Seventh Vice President John Coehlo, Eighth Vice President Arthur O. Wharton.

Quota Law for Latin America; Different Method for Canada

Washington, Dec. 15.—The A. F. of L. New Orleans convention made a distinction between immigrants from Canada and immigrants south of the Rio Grande.

A call was made in the latter case to place all Latin-American countries under the quota of the "immigration law." It was stated that the assassination of President-elect Oregon has made impossible the enforcement of a voluntary agreement between the A. F. of L. and the Mexican Federation of Labor to regulate the influx of immigrants from that country.

Residents of Canada are permitted, under our immigration law, to enter this country if they are born in Canada. Where they are not born in Canada they must come under the quota assigned to the country of their birth.

There has been much agitation in Great Lakes cities because of the influx of immigrants along the northern border, and the law has undoubtedly been repeatedly violated.

The A. F. of L. convention referred this matter to the Executive Council and expressed the hope that the law would be successfully enforced.

Reports from Canada indicate that certain influences are misinterpreting the convention's action in the hope that an anti-injunction feeling will develop, but convention delegates on the question were marked by the absence of even an implication of narrow nationalism that will destroy the solidarity between workers on both sides of the northern water divide.

MECHANICS MOST INTELLIGENT CLASS; THEIR FACTS BASED ON CONCLUSIONS

New York, Dec. 15.—Because mechanics have their facts on conclusions they are the nation's "most intelligent class," Prof. E. S. Free of the American Chemical Society told the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' convention.

Prof. Free listed engineers and technicians as second in the intelligence scale, with business men third and actors, physicians, ministers and professors a hard fourth. The latter, he said, do not permit their intelligence to function. They learn to confuse dogmatic plausibility with truth.

Average ratings of thousands of individuals give us the conclusion that foremen-mechanics—chief riggers, millwrights, precision machinists and the like—form our most intelligent class.

The reason for all this probably is that mechanics, engineers and other business men are permitted, indeed required, to get the facts before reaching their conclusions.

Ministers, doctors and professors are less fortunate. Public opinion expects them to have instant and definite opinions about many things concerning which essential facts are unknown.

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THAT BROOKWOOD CASE

The American Federation of Labor is frankly partisan. We believe trade unionism alone will aid the workers. We are not organized to dabble in theories or in other plans.

We hold that trade unionism will function in proportion to the workers' unity and their collective capacity—that there is no limit to the possibilities of organized labor.

Our main purpose is to impress this thought on wage workers. We understand Communism and other "isms," with their rulership from above as distinguished from the trade union ideal of individual development through collective effort and without state aid.

Our movement supports workers' education that has the trade union as its basis. Individual members of our unions may study anything they choose, but the trade unions, as such, refuse to finance these ventures.

This position is as old as the A. F. of L. and the Executive Council followed this course when it advised trade unions to no longer aid Brookwood College.

The cry "Injunction Against Brookwood" is not sustained by records of the A. F. of L. convention at New Orleans.

No resolution against the council's action was presented. Instead, the record shows that the Council's action "was unanimously" approved.

INJUNCTION METHOD SKEWED

In refusing a divorce, Common Pleas Judge Harrison W. Ewing of Cleveland, Ohio, stipulated that the applicants accept birth control for three years.

Courts set aside free speech, press and assembly guarantees, and they even order organized workers to handle non-union product against their will.

Regulation of the size of families by equity rule is the logical development of government by conscience that equity judges have assumed.

When the American people understand the principle of government by injunction, and its destruction of government by law, they will re-establish the system of our fathers.

The people will eventually understand that assumed power of these judges is eating into the vitals of our political institutions.

WELCH BILL CHANGE FAVORED BY FRIENDS

Washington, Dec. 15.—The Welch salary bill, passed by the last Congress, and emasculated by rulings, will be amended to meet these changes, declared Congressman Lehighbach, chairman of the House Civil Service Committee.

The bill, it is now stands does not relieve government employees who are in lower-salary grades. Congressman Welch of California, author of the bill, declares that the act has been altered by the President, House leaders and the Comptroller General and department heads charged with its administration.

Mr. Welch said: "Congressman Wood has referred to the bill which bears my name as a 'monstrosity.' He overlooked the fact that to repeal the bill is in accordance with his suggestion, while it might take away from the millions of dollars from higher-paid employees, it will deprive lower-paid employees of from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 from their already inadequate pay. He offers no substitute for existing conditions."

Amendments to the Welch bill in the city council and in the United Federation of Federal Employees.

BILL POSTERS UNITE
Stimulating, Dec. 15.—Bill posters in the city council and in the United Federation of Federal Employees.

MORE MARRIED WOMEN ENGAGED IN INDUSTRY

Washington, Dec. 15.—One in every 11 married women in this country in 1920 were gainfully employed, compared with one in every 22 similarly reported by the 1900 census, according to Miss Mary Anderson, director of the United States Women's Bureau.

Miss Anderson proves by statistics that these women are forced into industry because their wages paid their husbands. Studied by her bureau, she found that "married women were engaged in industry because their husbands' wages were not sufficient to support the family."

The number of these women has been negligible as to be scarcely worth considering," said Miss Anderson.

"The few figures that are available, amply bear out the need of the great number of married women workers for jobs that will supplement their family income."

A survey by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics in 1916-1919, covering 12,000 families of wage earners and small salaried men in 92 cities and towns, showed an average of 4.6 persons per family with the average year's income totaling \$1,434. The husbands and average earnings of \$1,440, which meant an average deficit of \$85 per year.

In March, 1923, a Philadelphia survey showed that \$1,824 was necessary to maintain a minimum health and decency standard. Prof. Paul H. Douglas of the University of Chicago has estimated that \$2,000 to \$2,400 is necessary for the maintenance of large cities to maintain the "American standard."

Miss Anderson points out that in 1923 the National Industrial Conference Board, an employer's group, found the average yearly earnings of 129,000 unskilled male workers in 23 major manufacturing industries to be \$1,157.

"In view of these facts," Miss Anderson continues, "it can be understood why the wives and mothers in these families seek paid employment."

Washington, Dec. 15.—A seasonal investigation of the Vetrica disaster, which was a hurt to the community, is proposed in a bill introduced by Senator Wagner.

URGE MECHANICAL DOORS

Washington, Dec. 15.—Mechanically operated fire doors or railroad locomotive doors are recommended by the Interstate Commerce Commission by one of its committee members.

Washington, Dec. 15.—"Those who urge birth control upon the laboring classes are necessarily defenders of economic injustice and retainers of plutocracy," said Rev. Dr. John A. Ryan, professor of moral theology and industrial ethics at Catholic University, in commenting on the birth control bill now pending in Congress.

"The Cleveland case once more brings home the socially destructive nature of the teachings of birth control," said Dr. Ryan. "There is no condemnation by this judge of our economic system which denies this couple a living wage. According to the judge's view there is nothing wrong in a family of five being forced to subsist on \$25 a week. It does not occur to him to denounce economic practices which result in this kind of deprivation of the worker of the means of living a normal human life."

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OIL MERGER LOOKS

Chicago, Dec. 15.—A world oil merger may follow meetings of the American Petroleum Institute and representatives of European oil companies.

PROFITS ARE IGNORED IN FIGHT ON UNIONISM

Kenosha, Wis., Dec. 15.—The 10-months' hosiery workers' strike against the Allen-A. Company shows to what extremes employers will go to maintain their autocracy over workers.

The strike started when the company installed the two-machine system. The machines would be operated by one skilled knitter, aided by two assistants, instead of one machine operated by one knitter.

This machine is a complicated apparatus, consisting of 50,000 parts, of which 14,000 are needles. Operation of even one machine is eye-straining, nerve-racking work.

The union offered to post a \$25,000 bond that would be forfeited to the company if, at the end of one year, it made less money under the one-machine system than under the two-machine system.

The company rejected this offer, stating that the question of unionism was the real issue. Profits were ignored. The company refused to accept a guarantee against loss, because that would uphold workers' position. The management would rather lose money than surrender its autocracy.

The strike has been marked by federal injunctions, jailing of strikers and the usual terrorism practiced by hard-bitten employers. The strikers have faced unusual hardships, a situation that is attracting nationwide attention.

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MILLIONS ARE NEEDED TO ENFORCE "DRY" LAW

Washington, Dec. 15.—Members of the House Appropriations Committee, when Mr. James M. Dorn, chairman of the Prohibition committee, assured that \$300,000,000 estimate for only apply to "policing" the United States, and would be exclusive of a system of United States agents covering the present appropriations "barely scratch the surface in enforcing the prohibition laws."

Rear Admiral Frederick C. Bullard, Commandant of the Coast Guard, would not attempt to estimate the cost of stopping rum running on the shorter water made its comment on Chairman Wood's estimate that a vessel of 100 tons could make 100,000 to 145,000 trips.

"The cost of this as an industry, considered as ever with illicit distilleries and breweries was manifest from Dr. Dorn's estimate. He said that in 1927, 16,250 distilleries last year, with an output of 115,000,000 gallons of liquor, or less, he explained, Arrows last year numbered 75,000, as against 64,868 for the preceding year, and 100,000 for the preceding year."

Washington, Dec. 15.—The shorter work week should be viewed not as a proposition by itself but by its relation to the whole modern industrial problem, said Dr. H. S. Penson, managing director of the Taylor Society at the annual conference of that organization.

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